

Docket No.: 26281-16A
U. S. Serial No.: 10/573,841

Art Unit: 1796
Examiner: J. J. Figueroa

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 8 have been amended and claim 3-4 has been canceled.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite because it is unclear as to what the term "domain" encompasses.

Applicants have amended claim 5 to more clearly define the claimed invention and to recite that the ABA-type block copolymer has a content of polystyrene domain that is 20% by weight or less. Applicants respectfully submit that the term "polystyrene domain" is commonly used by a person of ordinary skill in the art to define the polystyrene portion of the styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers and is described in the specification, for example at page 11, line 21 through page 12, line 10. Based thereon, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 as being indefinite is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 11-080690 to Oji Paper (hereinafter "Oji Paper").

The Examiner asserts that Oji Paper describes a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet for use in laminating surface-base materials in rubber tire applications that anticipates the claimed invention. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Based thereon, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claim 4 into claim 1 and

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therefore amended claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Moreover, Applicants note that Oji Paper describes a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet for a tire that is directed to a reactive type pressure sensitive adhesive sheet for a tire, since the process of Oji Paper includes the step of drying at 120°C after applying on the base material. Thus, Oji Paper includes a poly-isocyanate compound to carry out the cross-linking reaction as well as a natural rubber component.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to a hot-melt and non-reactive type pressure sensitive adhesive sheet for a tire which does not include a poly-isocyanate compound and also does not include a natural rubber as in Oji Paper which further distinguishes the claimed invention from Oji Paper.

With regards to the tackifier, Oji Paper discloses a synthetic resin, polyterpene system resin, aliphatic series system hydrocarbon resin, alky-phenol-acetylene series resin, cumarone-indene system resin and vinyltoluene-alpha-methyl-styrene copolymers having a softening point of 60-100°C.

In contrast, the present invention includes not only one tackifier having a softening point of 60-100°C, but also another tackifier having a softening point that is at least 30°C higher than that. Applicants further note that as seen in Example 1, beginning at page 20, line 14 of the disclosure, one tackifier having a softening point of 80°C and the other tackifier having a softening point of 120°C are used. Therefore, the adhesive agent of the present invention has good loop tack adhesive strength in the wide range of temperature from low to high.

Furthermore, with respect to the softener, Oji Paper discloses that 20 weight section of softener, which is a naphthene-base process oil is used in the example. In contrast, the softener used in the present invention is a paraffin-based process oil.

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U. S. Serial No.: 10/573,841

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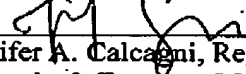
For all of these reason the present invention is believed to distinguish over Oji Paper and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-8 as being anticipated by Oji Paper is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is requested. Applicants believe that claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are now in condition for allowance and an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

If Examiner feels that a telephonic interview would be helpful, he is requested to call the undersigned at (203) 575-2648 prior to issuance of the next Office action.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Jennifer A. Calcaoni, Reg. 50,207
Carmody & Torrance LLP
50 Leavenworth Street
P.O. Box 1110
Waterbury, CT 06721-1110
(203) 575-2648

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